



Step Four: Jump

Read these descriptions of Joshua's victories. Joshua 10:40-43, 11:16-20, 12:7-24. What do you think about all that?

How hard is it for you to reconcile the awesome authority of God with our modern feelings about morality?

Consider that Rahab, her whole family, and the entire city of Gibeon asked for mercy and got it. What does that say to you?

Chapter 10:1-15 is an amazing account of a moment when Joshua took a leap of faith into untested waters relying on the *principle* of God's promise and not God's explicit instructions. Read Joshua 10:1-15.

How do you think Joshua and the people of Israel felt about the Gibeonites? (Refer to the end of chapter 9 if you need help.)

Considering that Joshua never actually promised to make Gibeon an ally nor to protect them from their enemies, what would you have done if you were Joshua? How difficult of a decision would that have been for you?

There's a lot of uncertainty about the meaning of the miracle in verses 9-13, and Bible scholars have a lot of explanations for how to understand it. On Sunday, I mentioned two ways of thinking about the miracle. What do you think about it?

Read Joshua 10:14 again. The most interesting part of the story to me has always been the part of the astronomical miracle, but the most interesting part of the story to the original writer is that God responded to the request of a human. What do you think about that?

The summary of the lesson we learned on Sunday is this:

Joshua had so much confidence in God's promise that he took a risk to help the Gibeonites and took a bigger risk to pray a bold prayer, and God responded favorably to both!

Take it Home

Consider the promises made in Matthew 16:18-19 and John 15:7-8. If we lived by those promises the way Joshua lived by his promises, what difference would that make?

In light of these promises, what actions could we be taking? What prayers should we be making?



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